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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 6, 2014

No. 14-26

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Alaska employment grew 0.4 percent in 2013

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's average monthly job count grew by 1,317 in 2013, amounting to 0.4 percent growth from 2012. Employers paid \$17.1 billion in wages, a 0.8 percent increase from the prior year when adjusted for inflation.

Job growth slowed considerably in 2013. Between 2011 and 2012, average monthly employment grew by 1.6 percent, or 5,372 jobs.

Government job losses were the main reason for 2013's tempered growth. Federal civilian employment declined by 917 and local government jobs by 624. Federal cuts were distributed across most agencies, including the civilian Department of Defense, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the National Park Service. Local government losses were driven by big cuts at the Anchorage School District as well as smaller reductions in other municipalities and school districts. State government grew slightly, driven by the opening of the new Goose Creek Correctional Center in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Combined, government employed fell by 1.7 percent, or 1,379 jobs.

The private sector had a much more typical year. Total private employment grew 1.1 percent, or by 2,695 jobs. The health care and social assistance sector continued to drive growth in 2013, adding 764 jobs. Oil and gas employment grew by 439 and the manufacturing industry — mostly seafood processing — added 362 jobs.

Some large over-the-year changes were the result of administrative coding changes rather than economic shifts. Most of the large gains in professional and business services and losses in the financial industry were the result of these noneconomic code changes. While these changes can distort trends in the short term, they ultimately lead to better reflection of industry composition.

Research and Analysis Web site: laborstats.alaska.gov

Alaska Employment and Wages by Industry

2012 to 2013

Industry	Average Monthly Employment		Employment Change, 2012 to 2013		Wages Paid (2013 Dollars)		Change in Wages, 2012 to 2013	
	2012	2013	By Number	By Percent	2012 (millions)	2013 (millions)	Real (mil)	By Percent
Total, All Industries	334,049	335,366	1,317	0.4%	\$16,978	\$17,115	\$137	0.8%
Total Private Sector	251,727	254,422	2,695	1.1%	12,597	12,808	\$211	1.7%
Natural Resources and Mining	17,777	18,160	383	2.2%	\$2,114	\$2,178	\$64	3.0%
Oil and Gas Industry	13,614	14,053	439	3.2%	\$1,734	\$1,818	\$84	4.8%
Construction	16,391	16,540	149	0.9%	\$1,202	\$1,239	\$41	3.4%
Manufacturing	13,890	14,252	362	2.6%	\$563	\$590	\$27	4.8%
Seafood Product Prep/Packaging	10,198	10,477	279	2.6%	\$370	\$392	\$23	6.1%
Wholesale Trade	6,261	6,606	345	5.5%	\$335	\$347	\$12	3.6%
Retail Trade	35,768	35,852	84	0.2%	\$1,185	\$1,057	-\$9	-0.8%
Transportation and Warehousing	19,744	19,516	-228	-1.2%	\$1,192	\$1,178	-\$14	-1.2%
Utilities	2,113	2,131	18	0.9%	\$173	\$176	\$3	1.9%
Information	6,191	6,145	-46	-0.7%	\$370	\$370	\$0	0.0%
Financial Activities	14,250	13,038	-1,212	-8.5%	\$774	\$670	-\$104	-13.4%
Professional and Business Services	28,629	30,104	1,475	5.2%	\$1,682	\$1,794	\$112	6.6%
Education and Health Services	45,349	46,161	812	1.8%	\$2,044	\$2,099	\$55	2.7%
Health Care and Social Assistance	43,142	43,906	764	1.8%	\$1,975	\$2,029	\$53	2.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	33,274	33,671	397	1.2%	\$701	\$716	\$15	2.2%
Other Services	11,738	11,826	88	0.7%	\$371	\$379	\$8	2.0%
Total Government	82,323	80,944	-1,379	-1.7%	\$4,381	\$4,307	-\$74	-1.7%
Federal Government	16,390	15,473	-917	-5.6%	\$1,220	\$1,121	-\$100	-8.2%
State Government	26,114	26,276	162	0.6%	\$1,410	\$1,429	\$19	1.3%
Local Government	39,819	39,195	-624	-1.6%	\$1,751	\$1,757	\$7	0.4%

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages